

**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
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Liam Quaide, TD

15 August 2025

PQ 42246/25 (Health): To as the Minister for Health the details of all primary care posts, including discipline, grade basic, senior or principal grade and contract type, fixed term or permanent in each health region which were deactivated due to being vacant on 31 December 23, as directed by the Pay and Numbers Strategy. – Liam Quaide

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to staffing which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

The Deputy will be interested to note that, employment levels at the end of June 2025, show there were 149,199 WTE (equating to 167,6356 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals & agencies. This figure represents a net growth in our health service employment levels of **+29,386 WTE/24.5%** over December 2019 reported levels.

It may interest the Deputy to note that the Pay & Numbers Strategy agreed in July 2024 as a two-year expenditure agreement, provided for the retention and funding for approx. 4,000 WTE, that were due to excess recruitment at the end of 2023 and the retention of once of funding provided for COVID-19 posts. This has enabled the retention of 4,000 posts across the publicly funded health system. This agreement, has also, provided for clarity on the funded workforce the health services, based on the agreement that as at December 31st, 2023 - all posts occupied and reporting WTE on the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) on this date are comprehended and considered as funded.

Added to this figure, is a total of 3,310 WTE additional new posts, comprised of new service developments and agency Conversion in 2024, along with a further 3,553 WTE in new service developments in 2025. This has provided for a maximum WTE limit of 133,305 WTE across the Department of Health only funded health services.

In responding to the Deputy's question, the recent WRC Agreement (CAM – 102157-25 30/03/2025) sets out the provisions and definition pertaining to the posts on December 31st, 2023, for which data has been collected. The definition pertains to those posts vacant on 31st December 2023, whereby the vacancy arose in the preceding 9 months, and filled by agency / overtime/ sessional/ other. The level of detail available is set out in Table 1.0 below and is provided specific to Primary Care services, by staff category and Health Region. The total WTE reported is 145.4 WTE.

Table 1.0

Row Labels	HSE Dublin & Midlands	HSE Dublin & North East	HSE Dublin & South East	HSE Midwest	HSE South West	HSE West & North West	Grand Total
Medical & Dental		1.4	0.3	0.2			1.9
Nursing & Midwifery	7.4	4.2	15.2	1.0		6.6	34.4
Health & Social Care Professionals	5.6		3.5	2.0	1.0	11.9	24.0
Management & Administrative	25.0	3.0	13.0	6.0	7.4	13.5	67.9
General Support		2.2				1.0	3.2
Patient & Client Care	3.8	3.7	2.0			4.5	14.0
Grand Total	41.8	14.5	34.0	9.2	8.4	37.5	145.4

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR